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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WILLITON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1960.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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WILLITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr.Chairman,Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report upon the health and sanitation of your district for the year 1960.

Very few cases of infectious disease have been notified and the general health of the population has been satisfactory.

The work of the department continues to increase with new legislation coming into operation. The year under review being in this respect notable for the coming into force of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations,1960,and The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act,1960.

Meat inspection duties continue to occupy a considerable amount of time,and this also applies regarding Housing Improvement Grants.

The following sections detail the work of the department during the year,together with vital statistics and the general public health services.

Section A. Vital Statistics and Social Conditions
Section B. Water Supplies,Sewage and Refuse Disposal.
Section C. Housing.
Section E. Public Health Nuisances,Complaints,Etc.
Section F. Caravans and Camping.
Section G. Other Acts administered by the Department.
Section H. Summary of Inspections and Visits by Health Department Officers.

Section A.
Vital Statistics & Social Conditions.

The district in general retains its agricultural character. Development has been of the purely residential order and this pattern looks like being maintained apart from the Hinkley Point Nuclear Power Station.

Area.....	97,364 acres
Population (estimated mid-year home population)	12,600
Number of Dwelling Houses.....	4,490
Rateable Value.....	£130,679
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated).....	£500

Live Births.	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	105	104	109
Illegitimate	5	5	10
	110	109	119

Birth Rate per thousand population (live births) ... 9.4

Still Births.	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	1	1

Deaths.			
From all causes	98	102	200

Death Rate per thousand population 15.8

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Health Services.
The district is served by Hospitals at Minehead and Musgrove Park, Taunton, and Hospitals for the aged sick at Williton, Bridgwater, and Taunton. Ambulance services are available from Minehead and Musgrove Park.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases Notified.
Smallpox	Nil
Scarlet Fever	7
Diphtheria	Nil
Enteric Fever	"
Measles	2
Whooping Cough	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil
Opthalmia Neonatorum	"
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	"
Dysentery	1
Malaria	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	"
Encephalitis Lethargica	"
Erysipelas	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	7
(Non-respiratory)	1
Food Poisoning	Nil

Section B.
Water Supplies, Sewage & Refuse Disposal.
Water Supplies.
The overall picture with regard to quantity has been reasonably good throughout the district. In quality however, there has been considerable fluctuation, this being the case especially with unchlorinated supplies. Abnormal rainfall contributed to the high bacteriological counts obtained in some instances, and temporary chlorination was arranged on some supplies.
Results of samples from piped supplies :-

Raw Water.				
Bacteriological	- Satisfactory	- 129	Unsatisfactory	- 56
Chemical	- "	- 13	"	- 1
Treated Water.				
Bacteriological	- "	- 67	"	- 5
Chemical	- "	- 12	"	- Nil

Refuse Disposal.
Of 30 Parishes, 29 receive regular collections of refuse. The three larger villages getting weekly collections, whilst the remainder, with the exception of Oare, have fortnightly collections.
In the case of Oare, which is somewhat remote and inaccessible, periodic special collections are made.
Disposal is on four semi-controlled tips.
Sewage Disposal.
Ten Parishes have main drainage and efficient disposal systems. Schemes for sewering of the Western Parishes (Selworthy and Luccombe) are being prepared and the parishes of Bicknoller and West Quantoxhead on the Eastern side of the district are next in the list of priorities.
Section C.
Housing.
Houses erected and gained from conversions during the year totalled 23, and there are now 4,490 dwellings within the district, of which the Local Authority own 739.
Housing grant applications approved during the year numbered 29 at an estimated average approval price of £694.
The Rent Act, 1957.
Two Certificates of Disrepair have been issued under the above Act, one being later withdrawn. In the other case, necessary repairs were carried out and the certificate cancelled.

Section D.
Food Inspection & Supplies.
Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed (approximate)	700	30	360	6000	4500
Number inspected	655	24	350	5056	3687
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	1	6	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	28	nil	nil	9	28
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and Cysticerci	4·4	4·1	0·28	0·29	0·92
Tuberculosis only-Whole carcases condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	43
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	nil	nil	nil	nil	1·18
Cysticercosis - Carcases affected	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Weight of meat condemned- (lbs)					
(a) Tuberculosis	nil	nil	nil	nil	722
(b) Cysticercosis	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
(c) Other	499	672	130	390	1073
Total (in lbs) condemned	499	672	130	390	1795

Slaughterhouses Act,1958.
It is anticipated that six slaughterhouses will remain in the rural area and the owners have been made aware of the requirements of the above regulations.
Food Premises & Food Hygiene.
The standard of food hygiene continues to be good generally,informal action only having been taken in three cases.
Section E.
Public Health Nuisances,Complaints,Etc.
Informal action was necessary in only nine cases. Verbal requests, after visits and inspection having been successful in resolving other matters which were the subject of complaints.

Rodent Control.
The Council's operative continues to be fully employed in pest destruction and during the summer months he also carries out the clearance of litter baskets, in conjunction with his normal work. Treatments and inspections carried out are as follows :-

Property		Inspected	Treated
Domestic	...	600	339
Agricultural	...	260	25
Business	...	45	14
Local Authority	...	12	6
		917	384

Ministry requirements have been met regarding sewer inspection and treatment.

Section F.

Caravans & Camping.
The provisons of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, will add considerably to the work of the Public Health Department. In enforcing these regulations, the special individual needs of the various sites will have to be taken into consideration and whilst the general provisions of the Act regarding proper amenities for the occupants will have to be enforced, the rigid application of some aspects of the Act will not always be possible.
The general picture of holiday caravanning and camping reflects the increasing popularity of this form of holiday with it's attendant problems of litter and sanitation, established sites being quite unable to cope with the peak seasonal influx.
Modernisation of the Council's Site at The Burgage, Stogursey, was completed in May of this year.

Section G.

Factories Act, 1937.
There are 58 factories in the district, including six licenced slaughterhouses. The majority of the others are of the light engineering type whilst several are of a temporary nature, i.e. building sites.
One contravention of the Act, relating to unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation, was dealt with.
There are 22 outworkers residing within the district, of which three are employed by businesses outside the district.

Pet Animals Act.

Rag Flock Act.
There are no pet shops within the district or premises dealing in rag flock.

Section H.

Housing Acts, 1936-1954.

Rent Act, 1957.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Housing Inspections	405
Informal Notices Served	11
Statutory " "	2
Public Health Acts.	
Inspections of Drainage & Sewerage	108
" " Water Supplies	78
" " Refuse Disposal	89
" " Camping & Caravan Sites	160
" " Nuisances	48
" " Filthy or Verminous Premises	25
" " Public Conveniences	11
" " Sanitary Fittings	8
Flood Relief Inspections	59
Miscellaneous Inspections	38
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	5
Informal Notices Served	6

Food & Drugs Acts.

Inspections of Slaughterhouses	49
" " Food & Catering Premises	42
" " Knackers Yards	1
Informal Notices Served	3

Factories Acts.

Inspections	8
Informal Notices Served	1

Complaints Received	97
" Investigated	97

The coming year will, in addition to normal routine be largely concerned with the implementation of the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

My thanks are again due to the staff of the Public Health Department for their continued good work.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. F. Killick M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.